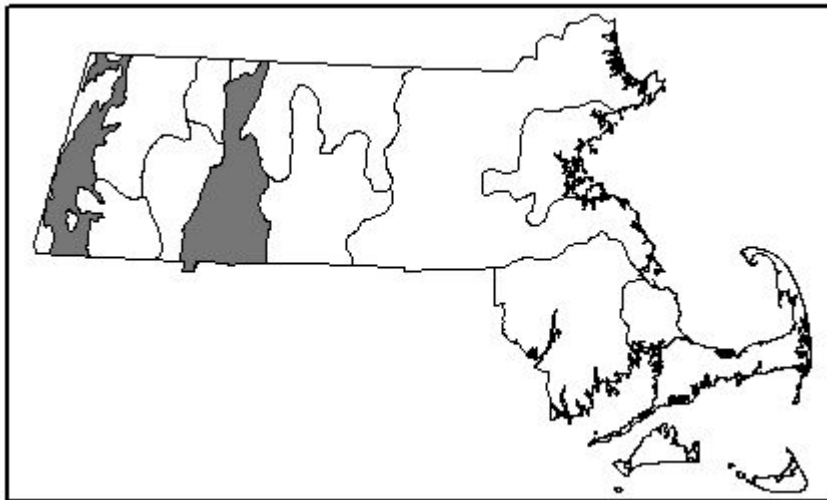


Community Name: CALCAREOUS TALUS FOREST / WOODLAND

Community Code: CT1B1A3000

SRANK: S3



Concept: Open to closed canopy on boulder strewn slopes with scattered and clumped trees, tall shrubs, and a lower layer dominated by vines and ferns. There is often a gradient of vegetation, with exposed calcareous rocks at the base of the cliff above the talus slope, and gradually more trees to the base of the slope. Small slopes may have canopy coverage from surrounding trees.

Environmental Setting: In rich woods, loose talus composed of calcareous boulders such as limestone or dolomite, often below a cliff or rock face. Soil between the boulders is usually moist and loamy.

Vegetation Description: Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) is usually the dominant species. Shrubs, abundant if the canopy is open, include round-leaved dogwood, also called talus dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*), downy arrowwood (*Viburnum rafinesquianum*), and purple-flowering raspberries (*Rubus odoratus*). The herbaceous layer includes meadow rue (*Thalictrum* spp.), jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), white avens (*Geum canadense*), Bottlebrush-grass (*Elymus hystrix* = *Hystrix patula*), broad-leaved woodland sedge (*Carex platyphylla*), and walking-fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum* = *Camptosorus rhizophyllum*).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: Most animals are not sensitive to the pH of the substrate, but respond to the size of boulders, cover, moisture, and surroundings of the talus slope. Porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*) den in large boulder fields and turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) make nests in other large boulder field, but snakes such as Black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*) have hibernating dens in talus with smaller stones.

Associated Rare Plants:

ADLUMIA FUNGOSA	CLIMBING FUMITORY	T
CLEMATIS OCCIDENTALIS	PURPLE CLEMATIS	SC
DIPLAZIUM PYCNOCARPON	GLADE FERN	- WL
DRYOPTERIS GOLDIANA	GOLDIE'S FERN	- WL
VIBURNUM RAFINESQUIANUM	DOWNY ARROWWOOD	T

Associated Rare Animals:

Examples with Public Access: None identified on public lands.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Threats:

Management Needs: Control of exotics on exemplary sites.

Inventory Need Rank: 2

Inventory Comments:

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Includes: Acer saccharum- Quercus muehlenbergii Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum- Quercus muehlenbergii / Clematis occidentalis Forest [CEGL006162]; Acer saccharum- Quercus muehlenbergii Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum- Quercus muehlenbergii Forest [Provisional] [CEGL005010]; Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana - Tilia americana Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana - Juglans cinerea / Staphylea trifolia Forest [CEGL006020].

MA (old name): SNE CALCAREOUS TALUS FOREST/WOODLAND.

ME: Not described.

NH: Related to: Transitional / Appalachian Circumneutral Talus Woodland Community.

VT: Part of: Northern Hardwoods talus woodland, and Transition Hardwoods Talus Woodland.

NY: Includes: Calcareous talus slope woodland.

CT: Part of: Acer saccharum - Quercus muehlenbergii Community.

RI: Not described.

Weatherbee: Part of: Dry calcareous oak/conifer forest.

Author: P. Swain

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